

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01819 181550Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4120

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 1819

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON FROM PICKERING

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECON, JO, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FOLLOW-ON VISIT TO JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 1817

1. REFTEL TALKS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR FOLLOWING UP YOUR VISIT HERE FEBRUARY 14-15 WITH A SOMEWHAT LONGER STAY. YESTERDAY, THE CROWN PRINCE TOLD ME THAT HE DISCUSSED THIS IN A FEW MINUTES HE HAD ALONE WITH THE SECRETARY AND THAT THE SECRETARY SEEMED VERY POSITIVE.

2. SUBJECT TO ANY COMMENTS SECRETARY MAY HAVE (WE WERE NOT ABLE TO FOLLOW UP WITH HIM BEFORE HE LEFT) WE WOULD MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOME A RETURN VISIT HERE. A MINIMUM OF 48 HOURS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SEE ON THE GROUND THE MAJOR MINERALS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER AREAS OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT YOUR VISIT WOULD BE BEST TIMED TO FOLLOW THE MORE IN-DEPTH PROBE WHICH WE ARE SUGGESTING BE MADE WITH JORDANIANS ON ISSUES OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN JORDAN. YOU WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01819 181550Z

YOURSELF TO REVIEW THAT WORK AND FREE TO REFLECT OR

EMPHASIZE AS YOU CHOOSE THE IDEAS WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED FROM THE PROPOSED WORK. WE THINK THEREFORE, HOLDING THE VISIT UNTIL AFTER THAT WORK IS DONE, AND PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER TRAVEL YOU ARE PLANNING IN THE AREA WOULD BE BEST MEANS OF FIXING THE TIMING IF YOU AGREE TO COME. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN SAYS HE SPOKE ABOUT THE END OF APRIL WITH THE SECRETARY BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE WORK COULD BE COMPLETED BY THEN. FOR THIS REASON AND IN VIEW OF KING HUSSEIN'S AGREED VISIT TO U.S. IN LATE APRIL AND OUR DESIRE IF POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR CONSIDERATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT ISSUE BY WORKING GROUP IN REFTEL, A LATER DATE MIGHT BE PREFERABLE AS WEE SEE THE SITUATION FROM HERE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ALLOW THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO IMPEDE AN OTHERWISE FEASIBLE EARLY VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY.

4. GRATEFUL FOR ANY REACTIONS FROM SECRETARY

AND PARTY.

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